



KENTUCKY READING FIRST

UPDATE (4)

October 15, 2004

Next month, the KDE Reading First Core Team hopes to provide a spot on the KDE Reading First web page for you to be able to ask questions related to program implementation. The Core team will categorize the questions and then create a “Questions and Answers Document” for you. We believe this web support will allow the KDE Reading First team an opportunity to stay abreast of questions surfacing in the field and provide timely responses to assist you. This will be, yet another, technical assistance resource for your school.

I. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Reading First Principals’ Institute

On October 4th, we had 56 Reading First Principals, 6 Superintendents, and 7 District Office Staff attend the Reading First Principals’ Institute. The evaluations from this session indicate that many of you found this session to be beneficial. The evaluations noted that you enjoyed networking with other Reading First Principals to discuss common issues and concerns related to implementing your Reading First proposals. We look forward to bringing you back together during the first week of March for the Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference.

Our outside evaluator, Collaborative Center for Literacy Development (CCLD), is preparing a summary from the Principals’ Institute that will be available on the KDE Reading First web page in late October.

District & School Coaches’ Monthly Meeting

The September Monthly meeting for District and School Coaches received positive comments. The coaches appreciated the opportunity to spend time together to share commonalities and concerns about program implementation. These monthly meetings will provide professional development opportunities to further your study of scientifically-based reading research, instruction, and practice. The District and School coaches will then be able to return to their schools and share what they learned at each of the monthly meetings. They will also be able to gain a regional and state perspective about how Reading First is being implemented in other districts and schools throughout our state.

The October topic will focus on analyzing student reading data. You will also continue your discussions from the statewide book study on coaching.

Summer Professional Development Planning Retreat

The KDE Reading First Core team will spend three days at the end of October planning next year’s summer professional development for Reading First sites. Our intent is to review the data from the CCLD to determine needs for future professional development.

The professional development for summer 2005 will not be delivered in the same manner as the 2004 Summer Institutes. As we are exploring alternate ways to deliver professional development, we'll keep you abreast of the progress for 2005 summer professional development.

Special Education Professional Development

The Council of Exceptional Children Conference, November 21-23, 2004, in Louisville, will provide an opportunity for teachers, parents, and special education service providers in Reading First buildings to receive professional development related to scientifically based reading instruction. The conference is open to all educators.

This conference will have a literacy strand. The Literacy Coaches and some of the State Reading First Coaches will be presenting sessions on strategies for struggling readers, comprehension, vocabulary and fluency.

For more information about this conference, contact Monica Raines at 502-564-4970 in the Division of Exceptional Children Services.

II. STATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE/MONITORING

Federal Monitoring Visit

During the week of October 4 -8th, KDE and three Reading First districts received a visit from the United States Department of Education (USDoE) Reading First federal monitoring team.

During the monitoring visit the USDoE team:

- Participated in the Reading First Principals' Institute
- Interviewed KDE Reading First Core Team, District, and School Reading First Teams
- Reviewed documentation/evidence of state, district, and school level program implementation
- Observed the 90-minute block of reading instruction in three classrooms.

KDE anticipates a follow up report before the end of the year. The monitoring team indicated that it would be at least two months to process the report through the USDoE Reading First Office. We intend to use these results, with the various other data collected, to provide continued technical assistance and targeted professional development for all of our Reading First sites.

District & School Visits

Over the next few months, the Reading First Core Team will be scheduling site visits to your district and/or school. During these visits, members of the KDE Reading First team will observe a portion of the 90 minute reading block, talk with the principal, School Coach, and various other teachers in the building. These visits should be considered technical assistance, so that we may assist you in your program implementation

III. BUDGET SUPPORT

REMINDER: DUE OCTOBER 25, 2004

- Final MUNIS Expenditure Report for Year 1 (2003-2004) funds **AND**
- First quarter MUNIS Expenditure Report for Year 2 (2004-2005) funds.

All expenditure reports should be submitted to

Thelma Hawkins
Capital Plaza Tower
16th floor, 500 Mero Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

The Reading First Funding Matrix has been attached for your convenience.



ReadingFirstFundingMatrix.doc

If you have any budgetary questions, please contact Thelma Hawkins at 502-564-1979.

IV. ASSESSMENTS

GRADE

American Guidance Services (AGS) has recently informed KDE that all schools should receive their student data no later than October 27th. We realize this delay inhibits your use of GRADE data to make informed instructional decisions. While awaiting GRADE data, we are hopeful you have been able to use other assessment data and informal assessment data to drive your instructional decisions and student considerations for supplemental or intervention instruction.

We ask for your continued patience. KDE and AGS are working to eliminate future issues around scoring and the timelines established for receiving student data. We are hopeful that these issues will be resolved before the next administration window.

REMINDER: Remember to register for the GRADE Data Analysis Professional Development. All District and School Coaches are required to attend. We have also included one primary teacher or special education teacher to attend with your team. Many principals have requested to attend with their school team. We are allowing this depending upon space at the meeting site. Please include the appropriate information on the RSVP form, if your principal plans to attend.

NOTE: For those attending the Louisville session, we want to clarify that this session will be held on Friday, October 29th. We have had a few questions about this issue.

Wireless Generation/DIBELS: Disaggregated data

KDE has contacted Wireless Generation about the issues some of you are facing with the inaccuracies of disaggregate data. Wireless is working to resolve these problems.

It appears that the grades were exported incorrectly. Wireless has requested that you ignore the grades and enter the correct demographic data as soon as possible.

You can submit demographic data to Wireless in one of two ways:

- hand enter the data into the www.mclasshome.com <<http://www.mclasshome.com>> website or
- enter data into the secure upload site, where you will find a spreadsheet for your demographic data.

V. NATIONAL/STATE EVALUATION

On-line District Annual Performance Report

You received information asking you to submit your District Annual Performance Report into the on-line data management system. The CCLD requests that districts/schools submit this report in a paper format **and** on-line.

Jack Hamoui, creator of the on-line management system, has agreed to provide technical support for districts and schools encountering difficulties, when submitting information. He can be reached at 859-971-3401.

Evaluation Results

Before the end of November, the CCLD will submit an annual report on Reading First to KDE. For those interested, KDE will make this report available on the KDE Reading First web page. The report will include evaluations for the following KY Reading First activities:

- 2004 Summer Institutes
(overall implementation, delivery of content, teacher response, etc.)
- Principals' Institute (October 4, 2004)
- Preliminary results from Year 1 implementation of KY Reading First
(includes information from the 20 case study sites, over 80 classroom observations)

For more information about the evaluation of KY Reading First, refer to section III: State Reporting and Evaluation (pp. 57 - 63) of the approved KY Reading First plan.

VI. PROGRAM AMENDMENTS

Beginning immediately, any program amendment submitted to Felicia Cumings Smith must provide appropriate evidence and reason for amending your original approved plan. The federal monitoring team suggested that KDE be extremely critical of amendments to ensure that approved amendments provide the appropriate evidence and support to impact the overall implementation of the local Reading First plan and student reading achievement.